

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as shown directly below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method of performing an injection operation comprising the steps of:  
introducing a water-soluble relative permeability modifier comprising a hydrophobically modified water-soluble polymer into a subterranean formation, wherein the hydrophobically modified water-soluble polymer is capable of reducing permeability of the subterranean formation to an aqueous-based fluid; and  
injecting an aqueous injection fluid into the subterranean formation after introducing the water-soluble relative permeability modifier.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobically modified water-soluble polymer has a molecular weight in the range of from about 100,000 to about 10,000,000.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobically modified water-soluble polymer comprises a polymer backbone comprising polar heteroatoms.
4. **(Original)** The method of claim 3 wherein the polar heteroatoms present within the polymer backbone of the hydrophobically modified water-soluble polymer comprise oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, or phosphorous.
5. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobically modified water-soluble polymer is a reaction product of a hydrophilic polymer and a hydrophobic compound.
6. **(Cancelled)**
7. **(Cancelled)**
8. **(Cancelled)**
9. **(Cancelled)**
10. **(Original)** The method of claim 5 wherein the hydrophilic polymer comprises a polymer backbone comprising polar heteroatoms.
11. **(Original)** The method of claim 10 wherein the hydrophilic polymer comprises a cellulose, a chitosan, a polyamide, a polyetheramine, a polyethyleneimine, a polyhydroxyetheramine, a polylysine, a polysulfone, or a starch.

12. **(Original)** The method of claim 5 wherein the hydrophobic compound comprises an alkyl halide, a sulfonate, a sulfate, or an organic acid derivative.

13. **(Original)** The method of claim 12 wherein the organic acid derivative comprises an octenyl succinic acid; a dodecenyl succinic acid; or an anhydride, ester, or amide of octenyl succinic acid or dodecenyl succinic acid.

14. **(Original)** The method of claim 5 wherein the hydrophobic compound has an alkyl chain length of from about 4 to about 22 carbons.

15. **(Cancelled)**

16. **(Cancelled)**

17. **(Cancelled)**

18. **(Cancelled)**

19. **(Cancelled)**

20. **(Cancelled)**

21. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the hydrophobically modified water-soluble polymer is prepared from a polymerization reaction of at least one hydrophilic monomer and at least one hydrophobically modified hydrophilic monomer.

22. **(Cancelled)**

23. **(Cancelled)**

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 21 wherein the mole ratio of the hydrophilic monomer to the hydrophobically modified hydrophilic monomer in the hydrophobically modified water-soluble polymer is in the range of from about 99.98:0.02 to about 90:10.

25. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble relative permeability modifier is introduced into the subterranean formation by injecting a permeability-modifying injection fluid comprising an aqueous injection fluid and the water-soluble relative permeability modifier into the subterranean formation.

26. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the water-soluble relative permeability modifier is present in the permeability-modifying injection fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.02% to about 10% by weight of the permeability-modifying injection fluid.

27. **(Original)** The method of claim 25 wherein the permeability-modifying injection fluid was formed by metering the water-soluble relative permeability modifier into an existing

injection stream comprising the aqueous injection fluid to form the permeability-modifying injection fluid.

28. **(Original)** The method of claim 1 wherein the water-soluble relative permeability modifier is introduced into the subterranean formation by injecting a treatment fluid comprising the water-soluble relative permeability modifier into the subterranean formation.

29. **(Original)** The method of claim 28 wherein the water-soluble relative permeability modifier is present in the treatment fluid in an amount in the range of from about 0.02% to about 10% by weight of the treatment fluid.

30.-98. **(Cancelled)**